

clarify procedures and the statutory roles of various agencies in the investigation and prosecution of espionage and other cases affecting national security.

I thank all Senators for their cooperation in this conference report, particularly the members of the committee. I also thank the staff of the Select Committee on Intelligence for their hard work in developing this legislation.

## SECTION 304

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of the Vice Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, Senator BRYAN, for purposes of clarification with respect to one definition in the Intelligence Authorization bill. And that's the definition of "classified information" in Section 304 of the bill which amends Section 798A of Title 18. Section 304 establishes as a crime the willful disclosure of classified information to an unauthorized person. In paragraph (c)(2) it defines "classified information" as "information that the person knows or has reason to believe has been properly classified by appropriate authorities, pursuant to the provisions of a statute or Executive Order. . ."

Mr. President, I would like to ask the Vice Chairman's assurance that this bill is not intended to alter in any way the existing definitions of classified information contained in other statutes relevant to the protection of classified information and whistleblower rights. Is that correct?

Mr. BRYAN. The Senator is correct, and I thank him for bringing this to the attention of the Senate.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The conference report was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4461

Mr. WARNER. I ask consent that at 10 a.m. on Friday the Senate turn to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4461, the Agriculture appropriations bill, and it be considered under the following agreement, equally divided in the usual form.

I further ask consent that the debate continue beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday and proceed throughout the day.

I ask consent that the vote occur on adoption of the Agriculture conference report at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday and that paragraph 4 of rule XII be waived and the time between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday be equally divided in the usual form, and, finally, 45 minutes of the minority time be under the control of Senator HARKIN.

Mr. REID. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 111

Mr. WARNER. I ask consent that immediately following the vote on passage of the Defense authorization conference report, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 111, the continuing resolution, the resolution be read the third time, and the Senate then proceed immediately to a vote on passage of the resolution with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001—CON-  
FERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the conference report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate on the bill H.R. 4205, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year and for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report was printed in the House proceeding of the RECORD of October 6, 2000.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is my privilege as chairman, together with my distinguished friend and ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, the Senator from Michigan, to at long last bring to the Senate the annual conference report from the authorizing committee in the Senate and the authorizing committee in the House.

To refresh the recollection of Senators, I will read the time agreement: 2 hours under the control of the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. WARNER; 2½ hours under the control of the ranking member, Mr. LEVIN; 1 hour under the control of Senator GRAMM; 30 minutes under the control of Senator WELLSTONE. Following the debate just outlined, Senator ROBERT KERRY will be recognized to make a point of order. The motion to waive the Budget Act will be limited to 2 hours equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. We hope to yield back some time because I know many of our colleagues are anxious to make commitments, but this is a very important piece of legislation. I am certain the Senators who are going to participate, whom I have identified, will do so in a manner that fits the importance of this annual piece of legislation.

This is the 39th consecutive authorization bill passed by the Congress, assuming it passes this Chamber. It passed the House by a vote of 382-31. That will give some clear indication of the importance of the legislation and the strong support that it merits and has merited in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, the Senate, as I have been with my colleagues here for the past hour or so for the voting, reflects a very somber note on this sad day for America—indeed, for all those who, throughout the world, stand guard for freedom. We have suffered a tragic loss to the U.S. Navy. This is in parallel with frightful losses taking place elsewhere throughout the Middle East. It brings to mind that this is a most dangerous world that faces us every day. Men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States go forth from our shores, serving in countries all over the world. They, of course, now are on a high alert because of the tragic terrorist act inflicted upon one of our destroyers, the U.S.S. *Cole*.

First in mind are thoughts for our sailors who have lost their lives, and most particularly their families and the families who, at this hour, are still waiting definitive news with regard to the crew of that ship. The casualties number four dead, approximately 12 missing, and some 35 to 36 suffering wounds. Still the facts are coming in.

This clearly shows the danger; it shows the risks the men and women of the Armed Forces are taking—not only in the Middle East region. This, of course, happened in a port in Yemen. The ship was on a routine refueling, a matter of hours, as it worked its way up towards the Persian Gulf to take up its duty station in enforcing the United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iraq. Because of the smuggling that is taking place in violation of those sanctions, those are dangerous tasks and they are being performed every day by men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, Great Britain, and other nations. Air missions are being flown over Iraq every day, and often those missions are encountering ground fire and other military activity directed against them. We must be a grateful nation for the risks that are constantly assumed by the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

The Senate will have an opportunity to get further facts in the course of the day.

I will now direct my attention to this particular bill, and I see the distinguished President pro tempore, the former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. It is my privilege to succeed him. As an honor to my distinguished former chairman, I ask he lead off the debate on this bill today.

Mr. THURMOND. Thank you very much. I appreciate your fine work as chairman.